CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1-5 and 46 as follows:

1. (Amended) A prepolymer, prepared by reacting a mixture comprising:

(a) at least one multifunctional compound containing three or more amine or isocyanate groups,

(b) at least one diisocyanate, and

(c) at least one diol,

wherein said diol has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000,

said prepolymer has a viscosity of at most 100,000 cps at 70°C, and

said prepolymer, when reacted with an excess of water, forms a hydrogel polymer.

2. (Amended) A prepolymer, prepared by reacting a mixture comprising:

(a) at least one triisocyanate,

(b) at least one diisocyanate, and

(c) at least one polyalkylene oxide having two terminal hydroxyl groups,

wherein a molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.9-1.1:1.8-3.3:1.2-3.3,

said at least one polyalkylene oxide has weight average molecular weight of at most 7000, and

said prepolymer, when reacted with an excess water, forms a hydrogel polymer.

3. (amended) A prepolymer, prepared by reacting a mixture comprising:

(a) at least one triol,

(b) at least one diisocyanate, and

(c) at least one polyalkylene oxide having two terminal hydroxyl groups,

wherein a molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.9-1.1:1.8-2.2:4.5-5.5,

said at least one alkylene oxide has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000, and

said prepolymer, when reacted with an excess water, forms a hydrogel polymer.

4. (Amended) The prepolymer of claim 2, wherein said molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.97-[1.]1.03:1.94-2.06:1.94-2.06, and

said at least one alkylene oxide has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000.

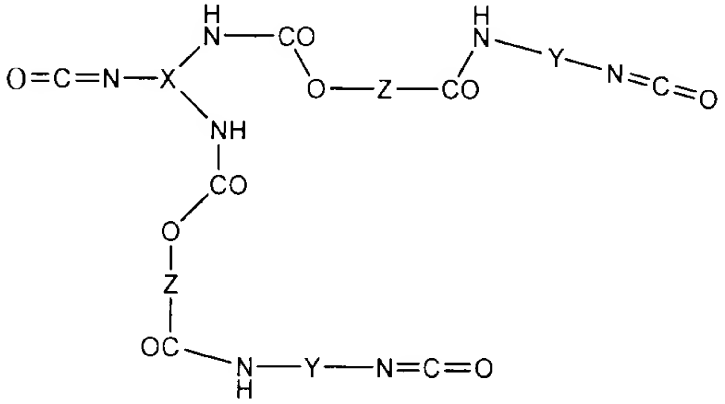
5. (Amended) The prepolymer of claim 3, wherein said molar ratio of (a):(b):(c) in said mixture is 0.97-[1.]1.03:1.94-2.06:4.85-5.15, and

said at least one alkylene oxide has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000.

6. (original) The prepolymer of claim 4, wherein said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

7. (original) The prepolymer of claim 5, wherein said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

8. (original) A prepolymer of formula I:



Formula I

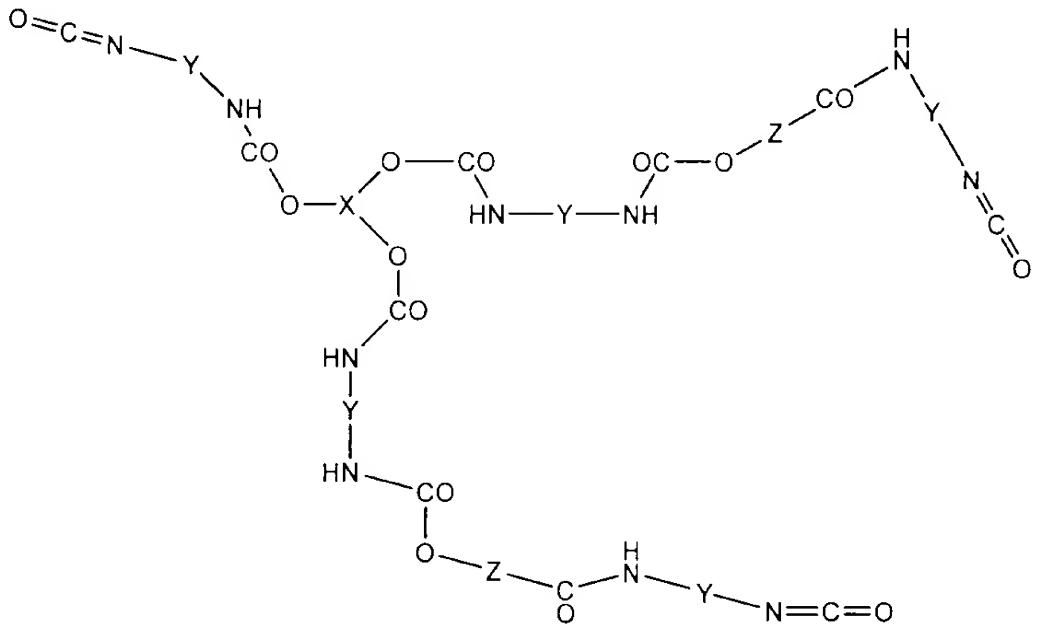
wherein X is a trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Y is a divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000.

9. (original) A prepolymer of formula II:



Formula II

wherein X is trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Y is divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000.

10. (original) The prepolymer of claim 8, wherein

Y is a divalent aliphatic group,

Z has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000, and

Said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

11. (original) The prepolymer of claim 9, wherein

Y is a divalent aliphatic group,

Z has a weight average molecular weight of 1000-2000, and

Said prepolymer has a viscosity of 1000 to 50,000 cps at 70°C.

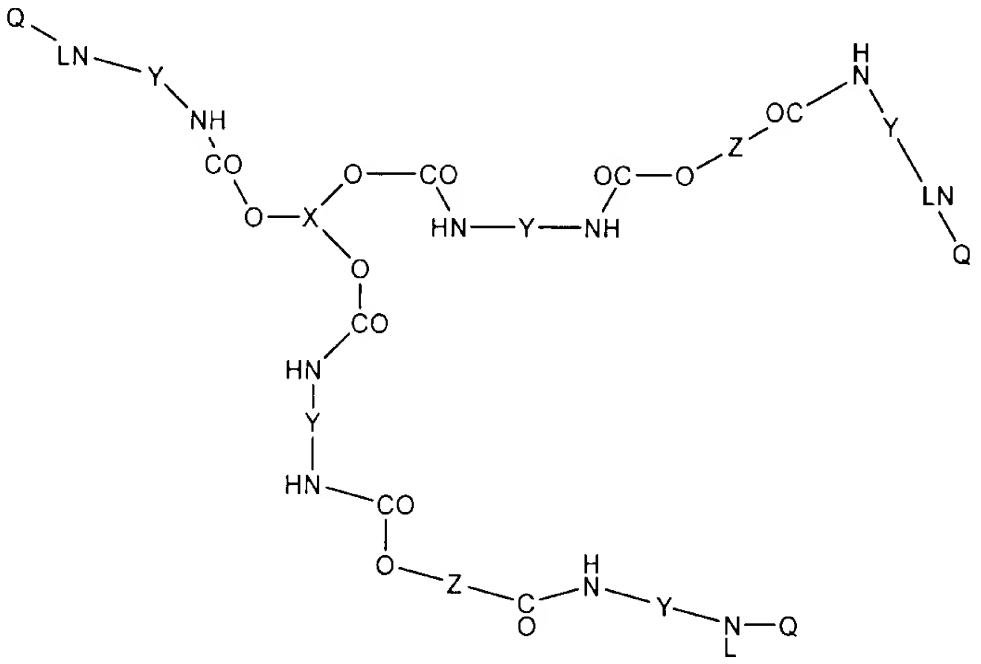
12-45. (previously cancelled)

46. (Amended) The prepolymer of claim 1[44], wherein component (a) is at least one triisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of the isocyanyrate trimer of hexamethylene diisocyanate, 2,4,6-toluene triisocyanate, p,p',p''-triphenylmethane

triisocyanate, the isocyanurate of isophorone diisocyanate, and the trifunctional biret of hexamethylene diisocyanate [said prepolymer has a viscosity of at most 100,000 cps at 70°C].

47 – 54. (previously cancelled)

55. (original) A precursor to a polyurethane hydrogel having Formula (VIII):



Formula (VIII)

wherein X is trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

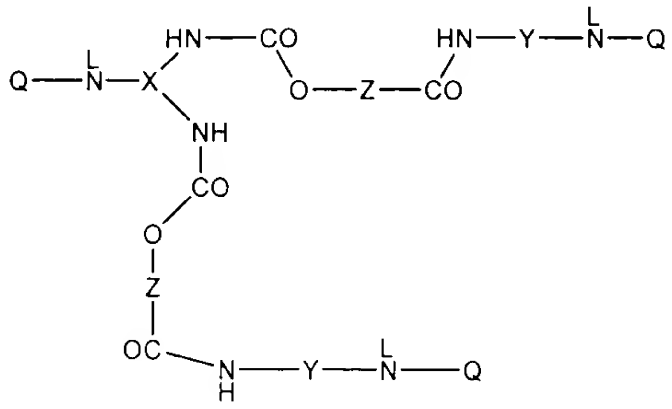
Y is divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000,

L is either hydrogen or forms a double bond, and Q is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, hydrogen and O=C, provided that when Q is O=C, L forms a double bond between nitrogen and the carbon atom of the carbonyl.

56. (original) A precursor to a polyurethane hydrogel having Formula (IX):



Formula (IX)

wherein X is trivalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Y is divalent organic group containing 3-20 carbon atoms;

Z is an oligomer consisting of monomer units selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, $-(CH_2-CH(CH_2-CH_3)-O)-$, $-(CH(CH_2-CH_3)-CH_2-O)-$, and $-(CH(CH_3)-CH(CH_3)-O)-$, and

Z has a weight average molecular weight of at most 7000,

L is either hydrogen or forms a double bond, and Q is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, hydrogen and O=C, provided that when Q is O=C, L forms a double bond between nitrogen and the carbon atom of the carbonyl.